

# federation square raingardens

Federation Square's carpark raingardens are the result of a great educational and environmental project. They were constructed as part of the Melbourne Water *Yarra River Youth Conference in June 2007*. This project involved conference students planting out the raingardens, enabling them to learn directly about stormwater treatment processes.

The raingardens have been designed to treat stormwater coming from upper level car parking and therefore will contribute to better health of the Yarra River. The best view of these raingardens is from the upper level central area of the Federation Square Carpark.

**Location:**

Russell Street, Federation Square,  
Melbourne

Melway Ref: 43 J9

**Partners:**

Federation Square Pty Ltd  
Melbourne Water

**Contact:**

[www.fedsquare.com](http://www.fedsquare.com)  
[www.melbournewater.com.au/ouryarra](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/ouryarra)  
[www.wsud.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.wsud.melbournewater.com.au)

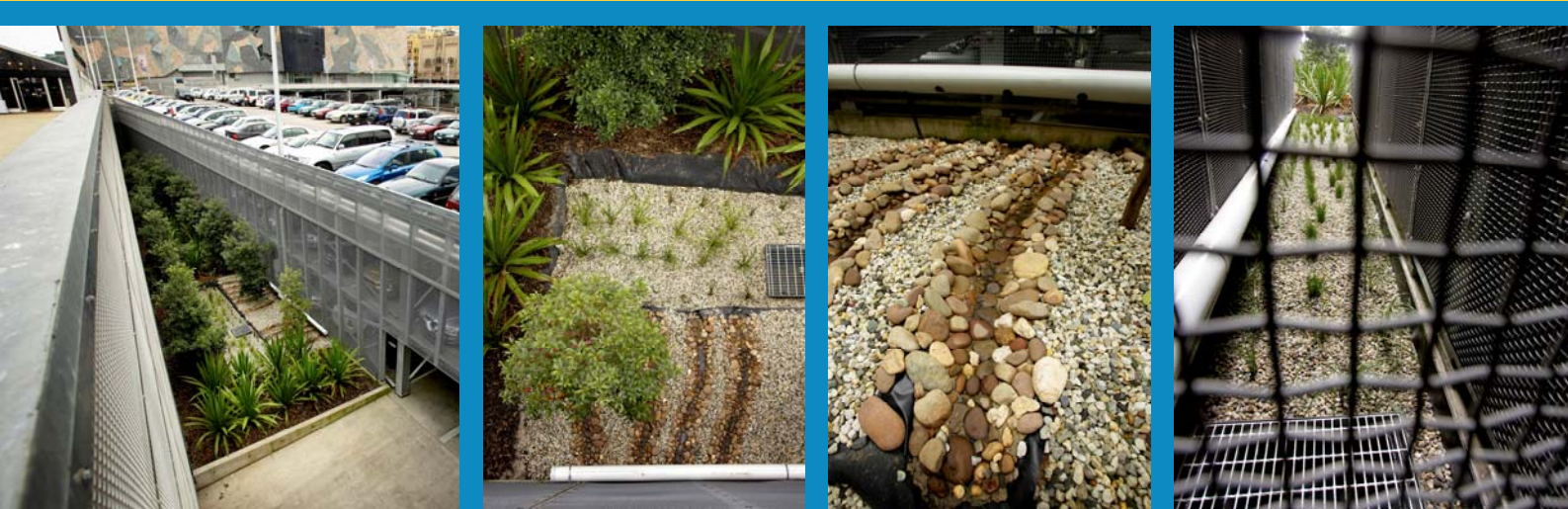
"..Its important to keep  
yarra river pristine.  
Raingardens filter  
stormwater, keeping heavy  
metals from entering the  
yarra river.."

Noel Mangan-Georgiou  
Manager, Fed Square



The Yarra River Action Plan recognises stormwater as the biggest threat to Melbourne's creeks, rivers and bays.

The Federation Square raingardens project is one of a number of initiatives that have been developed and supported by Melbourne Water in partnership with lower Yarra stakeholders to tackle stormwater pollution and improve the health of the Yarra River.



## Project Description

Rain gardens are an effective method of removing pollutants present in urban runoff such as litter, sediments, nutrients and metals. At Federation Square Carpark, rain falls onto the upper carpark level pavement, collecting pollutants from cars and human activities, and is drained into the gutters and downpipes. From there it is then spread onto the raingardens and pollutants are filtered out by the soils and plants. A perforated pipe collects the treated water at the bottom of the filter, which then directs flow back to the stormwater drain and finally to the Yarra River.

## Benefits

The collective treatment of roof, carpark and road runoff will help minimise the impact of stormwater pollution on the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

This project was a great way to educate students and raise their awareness on stormwater issues and simple ways to help reducing stormwater pollution. Such hands-on projects are appreciated by students, which in turn develops community ownership of these raingardens.

